

## OLVER ANNOUNCES \$9.2 MILLION MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AT BARNES

July 24, 1998

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WASHINGTON -- Congressman John W. Olver (1st District) announced today that the Fiscal Year 1999 Military Construction Appropriations bill passed by the House of Representatives

The MilCon conference report was completed by House-Senate conferees late yesterday. Congress is expected to pass the bill by the end of the month.

Olver predicted easy approval of the measure and Presidential signature before the beginning of the fiscal year on October 1.

"This is great news for Barnes and for the Massachusetts National Guard," Olver said.

"I've been working on this one all year in the MilCon subcommittee. The Barnes AASF is a top priority for me and my constituents."

The Barnes AASF would replace a dilapidated facility at Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee, Massachusetts.

The new building at Barnes will include a number of helicopter repair and maintenance bays, a flight simulator, and a flight deck.

"The Adjutant General's goal here is to put Guard with Guard. In other words, build the new facility at Barnes and move the Guard there."

"This will strengthen Barnes' hand to withstand the next round of base closures."

Olver noted that the current AASF facility at Westover, Building 7400 (formerly an Air Force hangar), is in poor condition.

"Gaping holes in the roof. Indoor rainwater channeling gutters all through the building to the parking lot."

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In addition, three of the seven usable bays at the Westover facility have had no heating whatsoever.

The FY 1999 Military Construction Appropriations conference report allocates a total of \$8.5 billion for fiscal year 1999.

Congressman Olver is a member of the House Military Construction Appropriations subcommittee.

### Other contacts on the project:

Lt. Colonel Daniel P. Swift, Commander, Barnes ANG Base 568-9151

Major Paul G. Thibodeau, Commander, Mass. Army National Guard's Army Aviation Support Battalion

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